

CODIB-D-69
5 December 1960

UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD
COMMITTEE ON DOCUMENTATION

MEMORANDUM FOR: Committee on Documentation

SUBJECT : Intelligence Community Systems Study

1. On 20 September, the USIB "Agreed that the Committee /CODIB/ should prepare recommended guidelines for the development of information processing facilities in the Community, including, if necessary, the conduct of a general systems study."

2. Among outside organizations which appear competent to help us to accomplish this task are:



3. It is possible that our best approach would be not to depend upon one of these but to organize a collective effort of two or three of them. What we most need is the concentrated work of a few highly imaginative and knowledgeable people who can quickly grasp the problem and identify the needed response in the broadest terms.

4. The above organizations have already done some work in the intelligence area. Some are more hardware oriented than others, and perhaps should be ruled out on that score alone.

5. AS an opening move I plan to contact [redacted] and [redacted] and ask for a one page preliminary proposal. Meanwhile we

- 2 -

CODIB-D-69
5 December 1960

can discuss in CODIB what subsequent moves ought to be made.

6. Please add this to the Agenda of our 15 December meeting.

Paul A. Borel
Chairman

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Attachment

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CODIB-D-69
Attachment

THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMPATIBLE SYSTEMS FOR PROCESSING INFORMATION IN THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY

The intelligence community of the Federal Government consists of a number of major collecting, evaluating and producing organizations: these are the intelligence components of State, Army, Navy, Air Force, NSA, AEC, FBI and CIA. In addition to the headquarters organizations there are several large field components, such as SAC and ACIC, who are heavy users of intelligence information and who are themselves producers.

Intelligence organizations differ materially in their traditions, size, budgetary positions and their assigned responsibilities. Over the years collection and production responsibilities have been allocated among them in attempts to insure adequate coverage and minimize unnecessary duplication of effort. These arrangements have not given important consideration to the processing of the intelligence information. Modern techniques for processing data and handling information make it desirable if not mandatory that this sector of the intelligence process be reviewed.

If a grand design for an intelligence community were to be executed today, it obviously would bear little resemblance to the present picture. However, we are where we are; we are not starting from scratch. Intelligence missions are derived from the broader roles and missions of the departments

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- 2 -

and agencies who have intelligence organizations. Changes which can be made in the ways and means of processing intelligence information will therefore be limited by the realities of the present. Nevertheless the imperatives of the future will dictate some changes: more information is coming in all the time; formats are of a wide variety; the information base of research efforts is becoming increasingly similar; permissible times for processing the greater bulk is diminishing. The awareness of top management of the need to improve processing techniques is greater than ever. From this may be inferred a greater willingness to accommodate traditional positions to the demands of new solutions.

In its simplest terms, the problem is to plan what makes sense in the processing area. Having determined this, implementation of the plan can be pushed as rapidly as practical considerations permit. We seek, then, to set guidelines for the development of departmental intelligence organizations and central intelligence services of common concern which take full account of the potential of modern techniques for processing information.

Background References:

- A. "The Coordinated Development of Compatible Intelligence Referencing Systems" CODIB-D-26/1, 5 May 1959 (CONFIDENTIAL)
- B. "Compatibility in Information Processing within the Intelligence Community". Study by [] CODIB-D-59, 5 July 1960 (CONFIDENTIAL)
- C. Second Annual Report of the Committee on Documentation to the United States Intelligence Board. CODIB-AR-2, 30 June 1960 (SECRET).
- D. USIB Action on the CODIB Annual Report. Extract from USIB-M-115 circulated as CODIB-M-25, Attachment, 20 Sept 1960 (SECRET).
- E. USIB Intelligence Subject Code (ISC), Revised Edition, Feb 1960 (UNCLASSIFIED).

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